



Week of June 18, 2012

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Green Power

Green Power Network News Highlights for May 2012

This update summarizes recent green power marketing activity, including news and information on competitive green power marketing, utility green pricing programs, renewable energy certificates, green power purchasing, and related market activity. Additional information on green power markets and products can be found on the U.S. Department of Energy's Green Power Network website.

News

- [Renewable Energy Increases Share of Voluntary Carbon Market](#)
- [Marin Energy Authority's 100% Wind Product Now Green-e Certified](#)
- [NJ School Installs 6.1 MW Solar System](#)
- [Indiana Utility Proposes New Green Power Program](#)
- [Green Mountain Expands into Rockland and Westchester Counties \(NY\)](#)
- [EPA Releases 2009 eGRID Data](#)
- [Illinois Communities Opt for Green Power](#)
- [Arizona Exempts RECs from State Sales Tax](#)

Renewable Energy RFPs in June

- [Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company](#)
- [Pacific Power](#)
- [Rocky Mountain Power](#)
- [PPL Electric](#)
- [PPL Electric](#)
- [King County \(WA\)](#)

Source: US DOE Green Power Network, 6/5/12

Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.

Renewable Energy Technologies

Imperial Valley geothermal power helps East Valley 24/7

How does geothermal energy captured near southern California's Salton Sea help us here in the Valley of the Sun? You'd be surprised.

Salt River Project is now receiving a significant amount of renewable energy from the recently completed Hudson Ranch I geothermal plant located in California's Imperial Valley. The utility-scale plant, developed by El Centro-based EnergySource, is now providing enough energy to power about 26,000 average-size Valley homes.

What's great about geothermal energy is not only does it help SRP hit our sustainable portfolio goals by meeting 20 percent of our retail electricity requirements through sustainable resources by the year 2020; it also produces clean energy 24/7 — not just when the sun shines or the wind blows. [Read more](#). Source: *East Valley Tribune*, 6/5/12

Geothermal, Solar Power Unite In First Of Its Kind Facility

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu earlier this month heralded the creation of a new geothermal-solar power plant in Fallon, Nevada, which he said was "the first of its kind in the world."

The Stillwater facility has 26 megawatts (MW) of photovoltaic solar generating capacity and 33 MW of geothermal power.

The plant will reportedly result in a more reliable power output since it combines the consistent base load power of geothermal with the peak capacity of solar power. Because solar only works during daylight hours, utilities currently link up solar plants with coal or natural gas plants to make up for the shortfall in solar output and to ensure a steady power supply. [Read more](#). Source: *Earth Techling*, 5/15/12

Learn more about [renewable resources](#).

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

New report looks at effect of variability on renewables value

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) has released a new report, "[Changes in the Economic Value of Variable Generation at High Penetration Levels: A Pilot Case Study of California](#)." This report evaluates how a subset of the benefits and costs of variable renewable generation changes with increasing penetrations on the electric grid. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) summarizing the key findings of the report is also available.

The U.S. DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability and the U.S. DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy provided funding for the report. Visit the More reports can be found in [LBNL publications](#). *Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 6/11/12*

National Laboratories report on wind energy cost trends

A new report by IEA Wind (Task 26) presents key global historical trends in the cost of wind energy, while also summarizing forecasts for the future cost of wind energy. Contributors to the report—appropriately titled "[The Past and Future Cost of Wind Energy](#)"—include staff at NREL and LBNL, as well as European participants in the IEA Wind's "The Cost of Wind Energy" task. The IEA Cost of Wind Energy Task collaborated on the research.

Contact [Ryan Wiser](#) at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 510-486-5474, or [Eric Lantz](#) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 303-384-7418, with questions about the material. *Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 6/6/12*

Download transmission reports from NREL

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Transmission and Grid Integration Group is pleased to announce two new technical reports:

- [Operating Reserve Reductions From a Proposed Energy Imbalance Market With Wind and Solar Generation in the Western Interconnection](#)
- [Alternative Approaches for Incentivizing the Frequency Responsive Reserve Ancillary Service](#)

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 6/6/12

CEC renewable jobs workshop now online

The California Energy Commission Lead Commissioner on the Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) conducted a workshop on May 30 to gather input on issues related to the job creation potential of renewable energy development in California. The [WebEx recording of the event](#) is now available. *Source: California Energy Commission, 6/4/12*

EEI updates transmission project report

Transmission Projects: At A Glance highlights the transmission projects undertaken by member companies of the Edison Electrical Institute. The projects detailed in this year's report cover several specific subcategories: Interstate Transmission Line System Investments, Transmission Supporting the Integration of Renewable Resources, and Transmission System Investments whose initial driver is predominantly to meet System Reliability Needs. [Read more](#). *Source: Edison Electrical Institute, 5/11/12*

New Interactive Web Map to Help Reduce Bird Mortality From Wind Development

A new, interactive web-based map, created by American Bird Conservancy (ABC)—the nation's leading bird conservation organization, is now available, and has the potential to dramatically reduce bird impacts from wind turbines. Open the map.

Using Google Earth as a platform, the map highlights more than 2,000 locations in the United States where birds are likely to be particularly vulnerable to impacts from wind energy development. Key sites are colored either orange or red to indicate their relative importance to birds.

Birds can be impacted by wind power both through direct collisions and by displacement from nesting, foraging, or transit areas. The map addresses both of these issues by identifying both concentrated migratory flight paths and key habitat locations. [Read more](#).
Source: American Bird Conservancy, 5/3/12

Learn more about [education](#) and [outreach activities](#).

News from Washington

Energy Department Announces New Concentrating Solar Power Technology Investments to American Industry, Universities

Building off investments in innovative solar photovoltaic technologies announced at the SunShot Grand Challenge Summit in Denver, Colo., earlier today, the Energy Department announced new investments for 21 total projects to further advance cutting-edge concentrating solar power technologies (CSP). The awards span 13 states for a total of \$56 million over three years, subject to congressional appropriations. The research projects, conducted in partnership with private industry, national laboratories, and universities, support the Energy Department's SunShot Initiative, a collaborative national effort to make solar power cost-competitive with traditional energy sources by the end of the decade. [Read more](#). *Source: EERE News Network, 6/13/12*

DOE website makes new energy technology accessible to businesses

Use the [Energy Innovation Portal](#) to find information on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies available for licensing. The Department of Energy laboratories and participating research institutions developed this website to help businesses:

- Identify leading-edge energy technologies.
- Build their business portfolios through technology licensing.
- Fulfill their energy market business plans.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 6/6/12

Energy Department Launches Online Tool to Help Consumers Save Money on Energy Bills

As part of President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy to help American families and businesses reduce their energy costs, the Energy Department has launched the Utility Data Access Map tool, an interactive Web platform that enables electric utilities across the country to show customers, in a simple way, the data they can access on their electricity use. Currently, DOE has received responses from more than 500 participating utilities. [Read more](#). Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 4/30/12

Learn more about [national activities](#).

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

Read the News from the Nebraska Energy Office

The May 2012 issue of the [Nebraska Energy Quarterly](#) is now available online.

Articles and news items in this issue include:

- Energy Initiatives Under the Recovery Act
 - Southeast Nebraska Community Action Celebrates 300th Weatherized Home in Avoca
 - Students Learn Renewable Energy Skills at Community Colleges
- State News
 - Nebraska's Latest Energy Use, Costs and More
 - Wind-Powered Traffic Lights to Get Tested
 - Efforts Highlighted in New Sustainability Report
 - New Study of Energy Building Codes in Nebraska
- Great Plains Energy Conservation Codes Conference October 16 - 18 in Omaha
- In the Classroom: Bursts of Energy – Wind Energy Activity
- Fifth Annual Nebraska Wind Conference October 22 – 23 in Lincoln
- Free Copies of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code and Supporting Materials While Supplies Last
- Using Energy Wisely on the Farm and Ranch
- Features such as News Bytes, Dollar and Energy Saving Loans and the Energy Wiz

Source: Nebraska Energy Office, 6/5/12

California PUC unanimous vote resolves NEM cap, allows over 2GW of additional capacity

The May 24, 2012 unanimous vote by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) clarifying the methodology for calculating the State's five percent net metering cap will dramatically expand opportunities for California ratepayers to go solar. The vote brings to an end a discussion initiated by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. (IREC) in November 2009 concerning how to calculate the cap. IREC worked with numerous

organizations including members of the [Coalition for Solar Rights](#) in the proceeding. [Read more](#). Source: *Interstate Renewable Energy Council*, 5/30/12

Geothermal Leader Finding it Tough to Capitalize

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With an estimated resource capacity of up to 2,125 megawatts in development, the Silver State boasts the largest number of geothermal projects in the nation, according to the Geothermal Energy Association.

As proponents of geothermal development are finding out, however, fully leveraging the state's home-court advantage is easier said than done. [Read more](#). Source: *KOLO-TV*, 5/17/12

Learn more about [state renewables programs](#) and [energy analysis](#).

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

USDA Announces the Availability of Grants through the Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program (RBOG) for Fiscal Year 2012

Public bodies, nonprofit corporations, institutions of higher education, rural cooperatives, and Native American tribes may apply for grants to support projects that will improve economic conditions in rural areas. RBOG is a highly competitive program that emphasizes sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs. It is estimated that USDA will only be able to accommodate approximately 24 grant requests nationwide, given the funding available.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by August 6, 2012 at the USDA Rural Development State Office in order to be considered for funding. [Read more](#). Source: *DOE Tribal Energy Program*, 6/14/12

Learn more about [funding solicitations](#).